

Vote Loz Kaye

PIRATE
PARTY UK

Manchester Central

Ideas for Manchester

PIRATE
PARTY UK

Loz Kaye for Manchester Central



0 Introduction

Not in debt to a party with national interests, Loz Kaye can represent you in Manchester:

1 Manchester

"During this year's local elections, there was one thing I heard time and again from people I spoke to, whether on the doorstep, in their flats or on the street: "I don't vote, because it doesn't change anything".

2 Digital Rights

It's this sense of powerlessness over the forces that shape our lives and the space around us that is so worrying in Manchester and the UK today. Creeping privatisation means every aspect of our society is being divided up and parceled out. It can be impossible to find out who is responsible for the most basic aspects of our environment, public space and services, let alone get anyone to do anything. It is a **society easy to feel powerless in.**

3 Economy & Jobs

We are constantly under surveillance, whether it is by Europe's biggest army of CCTV cameras or by companies like ATOS to check we are ill enough. In a country of physical barriers, many find that the online world is a virtual place to reclaim some freedom. But here, too, we are increasingly to be watched and restricted, while government and courts gather powers to disconnect us, block websites and monitor what we say and do.

4 Civil Liberties

5 Restoring Trust

Our governments have created a state where the default answer is 'No'. In this 'No' culture it's not surprising that people in Manchester Central feel that nothing can change. This is, more than anything, what I want to address. At the heart of Pirate Party politics is **the right for everyone to share knowledge and take an equal part in society.** That is the way to take control over the world around us, particularly in these difficult economic times.

6 Education

7 Health

I don't accept that Manchester, or the country at large, is a helpless victim.

True, we have more than our fair share of serious problems, but the solutions have to come from our own invention and imagination. Tax cuts won't magically make that happen, nor will relying on big corporates to balance the books. From the innovative businesses springing up in old mills, to hacker cafés, to dedicated community activists, our constituency is teeming with ideas. Let's set these ideas free to break out of the cycle of powerlessness, end the closed off society and connect up a **city where we can all innovate and prosper.**

8 Environment

9 Justice

The solutions to our problems, and inspiration to really make the kind of Britain we want, are right here in Manchester. Every policy is just an idea, a way to do it and evidence that it will work. Everybody can get involved in that, everyone has something to contribute. That's why I'm standing. To help bring those ideas out, share them and get them working. Here I'm setting out a whole range of positive proposals for a **Manchester Central where everyone really can get their fair share.**

10 Social Policy

11 Culture

12 More about us

This manifesto should give you some idea as to what I think we need to fix and what we can achieve as a society. These positions give you an idea of how I would vote if I were elected and give you some idea of what I believe in. I hope that you can take the time to read them and that in November you will vote for someone who will represent what you want for Manchester. "



Manchester 1

Manchester Central has significant problems. Just under half of our children live in poverty, in some parts of the city social housing is substandard or simply unavailable. Unemployment is higher than the UK average. Even so, we have the imagination, knowledge and spirit to solve our problems right here. After all, this constituency is also the home of the Etihad stadium, the University that discovered graphene and where the Hacienda was born.

Developers reshape our cities, rename our districts but don't live up to their promises. Some fail to maintain what they have built, some are unwilling to preserve those aspects of our common heritage they are responsible for. I want to make sure that powers exist and are used to ensure developers are held to account and that our historic buildings are preserved. We need to look after what we have left as well as **building a better Manchester**. Rather than turning parts of our city in to lifeless areas, we need to work together to get the most out of our city.

If we want Manchester to compete effectively, we need **better connections between the city and the rest of the UK**. The government has not properly committed to the Northern rail hub, it should be guaranteed, and the whole investment brought forward.

✓ Regeneration

✓ Jobs

✓ Connections

✓ Heritage

Metrolink continues to be dogged by all too frequent delays and problems, a clear plan and transparency are vital for improvement. Business leaders in Manchester have been highlighting that they simply do not have the digital connectivity they need to carry out their work and grow. It's time that the government listened and invested in the infrastructure that Manchester business needs.

Manchester needs an MP that can fight its corner and I think I can do that. **Together we can build new homes, create new jobs and businesses** if we have the investment Manchester deserves. We can build on our heritage to make sure that the Manchester that we love is truly ready for the 21st century, and **a city where all of us can get our fair share**.

2

Digital Economy & Digital Rights

✓ Digital Jobs

✓ Infrastructure

✓ No Disconnection

✓ End the Digital Divide

✓ Free Public WiFi

Everybody should benefit from the digital revolution. At the moment Manchester and the UK are behind the curve. Rather than focusing on access and capability, the Government has decided to limit our rights online, hampering our ability to make use of the internet to its fullest and hamstringing business.

We need to invest in truly world class infrastructure. The goal is fibre to every home and business and public WiFi where it is needed. The rolling out of public WiFi is a priority and, like street lighting, it is possible if we want it to happen. Together we can get Manchester connected.

Laws like the Digital Economy Act threaten to cut off whole families from digital opportunity, all to support businesses that have failed to adapt to the reality of a connected world. **It's time to stop the blocking of web sites,** it is arbitrary censorship with no positive benefits. Rather than putting unnecessary burdens on digital businesses, **we can get the real digital economy moving; creating new jobs** and encouraging small businesses to export internationally via the Internet. We can grow the digital economy and make it possible for all to take part.

Consumers should be protected, the problem of misleading broadband advertising should be tackled with a right to pay only for the broadband connectivity actually delivered. The 'locking' of electronic devices should be seen as anti-competitive. The principle of a neutral and open net should be protected. **That is how business and our shared culture will grow.**

"The Internet is worth £100 billion a year to the UK economy, now more than construction and utilities."

Source - Boston Consulting Group

Loz Kaye - Connecting Manchester



Economy & Jobs 3

The UK is in a dire financial position right now, we have not managed to dig ourselves out of the hole caused by the bank crisis under Labour, and many of us are still suffering from the consequences. We have not put protections in place to prevent the same mistakes from happening again. We must **hold the banks to account**. Banks and their management should be liable for catastrophic mistakes, it will mean that they take fewer risks with our money, the Government wants to stop short of this. It is time for **strict liability for bank directors** to prevent our economy from being treated like a casino.

The tax system should be clear and transparent and **focused on jobs and innovation**. We need to take action to **reduce avoidance and act on evasion**. A dedicated tax minister with clear responsibilities to us all would help to make sure all businesses and individuals are playing their part and that no group faces an excessive burden.

It is important to realise that **we can't simply borrow or tax-cut** our way to growth, **we have to invent** our way to it. We need to focus on what works. Small businesses provide a massive amount of employment and tax revenue, we should ensure that they are not prevented from innovating but encouraged to do so.

We see more economic activity and **more jobs from small firms** yet tax breaks are more available to large corporates. That is not only unfair, it is promoting business that isn't beneficial to the UK at the cost of supporting those that are.

✓ **Hold Banks to Account**

✓ **Tackle Tax Avoidance**

✓ **A Living Wage**

✓ **SME Innovation**

✓ **Review IP Law**

The economy is built upon **education and individual effort**. We need to empower individuals, school should not just be about work experience but about "**creating your own job**" experience. We must **remove Intellectual Property laws** that are hampering growth. It's time to stop the tide of over reaching patents and trivial law suits that are tying up new ideas and start ups.

Instead of bailing out banks, and channelling money through them, help needs to get directly to those who are creating **new ideas and new jobs**. But it is not just a question of creating any old jobs. **The focus of our economy should be jobs with a living wage**. 10% of the city's earners are below the Manchester living wage of £7.22 an hour. We need to **lift these people out of the poverty trap**.

4

Civil Liberties

✓ No 'Snoopers Charter'

✓ The Right to Protest

✓ Freedom of Speech

✓ Right to a Private Life

✓ Reclaim the Commons

It often feels like **we live in a "say no first, ask questions later" society**. Whether it's councils banning a 9 year old from blogging about school dinners or the government threatening to suspend social media, **I have always stood up for freedom of speech**. The courts must not be used to block freedom of expression and knowledge, a reform of libel laws is overdue to ensure this. The right to speak out is fundamental in democracy. **We must protect the right to protest**, assemble and strike.

We do have the right to protect our private and family life, wanting privacy is not a suspicious activity. The government is reviving Labour's plan to track all our email, web and phone contacts in a blanket 'snoopers' charter', this is a wasteful intrusion. The £2 billion cost should be invested in to digital infrastructure instead.

Everyone has a right to private and confidential communication. To ensure that, we need to introduce stronger data protection laws and require companies that hold personal information to be clearer with consumers about their rights and to apply a reasonable level of security to data.

Most importantly it is time to claim back the 'commons', even on privately owned land that is used publicly. We have the right to gather and enjoy our shared spaces and we should be free from arbitrary restrictions and intrusions if we wish to do so. I want to see a rolling back of the more authoritarian excesses of the last few governments, including a review of terrorism legislation and laws designed to limit a specific type of behaviour, but that now have an impact on every day life and have come to threaten us all.

<http://manchester.pirateparty.org.uk>



Restoring Trust In Government

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Our democracy is in real danger, all too few people take part and vote. **It's time to reverse the trend of just a few people calling the shots.** This has to start with trusting young people and bringing in voting from 16. All the main parties promised us long overdue reform of the House of Lords, but seem unable to act due to Westminster bickering. Let's all be involved in working out how we want to be governed, based on equality and fair representation. When all else fails constituents should be able to force a by-election if they have lost confidence in their MP.

It is time to **end the "pass the buck culture"**. It should be transparent who is responsible for which decisions and who will take responsibility when there are problems. We all take responsibility for our actions, it is time that those in government did so too.

✓ Open Government

✓ Freedom of Information

✓ No 'Passing the Buck'

✓ Scrap Bad Suppliers

✓ Votes at 16

I can't ask you to trust the government, but I can promise to work to make government more trustworthy. We should expand 'open data', government and council information that concerns us should be shared with us. If our government fails us, people should have the right to expose it and we should protect the rights of whistleblowers.

Freedom of information laws must be protected, strengthened and expanded. The 'right to know' should apply wherever our money is being spent and that must include private contractors. We've seen how outsourcing can let us down with G4S security for the Olympics, so it is important that it is possible to renegotiate contracts or get rid of suppliers when they fail us.

Less than half of registered voters voted
in the Manchester Central constituency
at the last General Election.
- Source Manchester City Council

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Education

✓ Scrap Tuition Fees

✓ Smaller Classes

✓ Local Control

✓ 21st Century Education

✓ Life Long Education

We should have an education system for all. **University tuition fees burden students with debt** and act as a barrier to access and success. They must be frozen and reversed. Class size guidelines must be enforced for all ages and schools should be under local democratic control. Free Schools should not be under government control, but have council supervision and local representation on boards. **Teachers must be free to focus on teaching, and not bogged down by administration.** I want to see a national curriculum that is about the "what", but not "how", so that schools and teachers can teach in a way that best benefits the student. Above all, we need to educate a generation of innovators, not idle consumers.

It is important that in an increasingly digital world Computer Science is available in schools. Children should not be just learning how to use business software, but how to use the tools and technology that we all now have available to us. At all levels, **real world experience and partnerships** outside of the classroom and lecture hall should be a core part of learning.

Education should be life long, everyone should have a Personal Investment Allowance. If you don't go in to further or higher education straight away, you should be able to do so later in life, when you need new skills or want to change career. The aim of our schools must be rounded development, not learning for exams.

I think we need to look at what has worked elsewhere too. Scandinavian style 'high schools' which offer 6 month residential courses before higher education without exams to develop students abilities and desire to learn, would provide real benefits to students and the country at large. Alternative methods of grading GCSEs and A levels such as percentile based systems should be explored to make the system fairer and more transparent.

Investment in education is, after all, investment in the future.

Loz Kaye - Connecting Manchester



We must **secure the NHS for now and the future**. Instead of dogma, the NHS should be about what works. There should be no compulsion to outsource services if they can be more effectively or cheaply done in house. Doctors must not be burdened with administration, they must be allowed to focus on patients. There must be complete transparency about the decision making for our health service, the risk register must be published. If we are going to have a cost effective health service available to all, then it must no longer be a blank cheque for big pharmaceutical companies. We should end drug patents and use the money saved to **invest in research and reversing cuts**.

I believe we can all make positive choices about our own health. To help, food labelling should be as clear and easily understandable as possible. Advice on getting healthy should also be available easily, without bias from companies that seek to make money from fitness fads and dietary supplements. We must make sure the ill are not exploited, and crack down on misleading quack and 'miracle' cures.

The use of recreational drugs should be seen as a health issue and the NHS is best placed to help in tackling addiction, educating and reducing harm to individuals. This approach must be evidence lead, not subject to knee-jerk reactions or election year promises.

✓ **Protect the NHS**

✓ **No NHS Charges**

✓ **Let Doctors Treat**

✓ **No Knee-jerk Policy**

✓ **Patients not Patents**

I would not support any charges for access to healthcare, nor could I support any other measure that makes access to care more difficult for people. Our aim should be to help people see a doctor or nurse when they need to, and have access to vaccinations and preventative care. It will keep us healthier and reduce costs. The health of our young people needs to be protected. Vaccination should be broadened where it is effective, for instance giving the HPV vaccine to boys as is now recommended.

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Environment & Transport

✓ **Protect Open Spaces**

✓ **Save Resources**

✓ **Tackle Litter**

✓ **Affordable Transport**

✓ **Safe to Cycle**

We need smart policy to improve our environment. Bringing in a bottle return scheme, paying for a deposit on bottles and cans which is given back when they are returned. This would **reduce litter and the burden on recycling facilities**, as well as changing attitudes towards our precious resources.

The environmental challenges, from climate change to dealing with 'grotspots', are monumental. They require changes in all parts of our economy and in our behaviour, but if we work together we can deal with both. Litter is more than a blight on our landscape, it is an indication of wasted resources. We can work together to improve the areas where we live and at the same time deal with a threat to our world. Using new technologies for power generation and to fuel our cars will help a great deal too; I want to see **investment in British engineering** to bring about the changes and technology that we need.

Open spaces must be protected, land ownership must be transparent, our common heritage maintained and developers made to act responsibly. It is time for a fair environment policy. There should be a new focus on "problem" littered and polluted areas and a more proactive Environment Agency.

Cycling should be seen as part of our transport system, not just a token effort. To get more people in to the saddle, we should separate cyclists from other traffic where possible and ensure that cycling directions are part of transport information. Adult and child cycling classes should be available. Walking should also be seen as part of transport strategy, particularly as pedestrians are most at risk in traffic accidents here in Manchester.

Part of looking after our environment and having a dynamic economy is having a well functioning public transport system. **On our railways there must be no more private profit at public expense.** If tax payers invest, investment must be matched by rail operators and we need to see a return. When assessing rail performance, overcrowding and affordability should be taken in to proper consideration. **Ticket pricing needs to be transparent, easy to understand**, and work between different forms of transport. We can get Manchester moving.

Get in touch on 0161 987 5944



A justice system that isn't available to everyone is not a justice system at all. The current trend towards setting up barriers to access is worrying and I want to see it stopped. **Cuts to legal aid must be reversed**, to preserve access for the most vulnerable in our society. Instead, legal fees should be capped. We deserve an impartial justice system, accountable police officers and a fair system for dealing with those convicted of offences.

Public consent is the cornerstone of such a justice system. Much is made of community policing, but priorities need to be set with the whole community, not just a few people. Consultation and involvement needs to be more inclusive, seeking out groups who are under-represented. Agreed priorities should be updated regularly and set out clearly. CCTV is becoming ever more intrusive and expensive, but it is far from effective. **Money wasted on cameras should be used to reverse police cuts.**

There should not be any political interference in the everyday working of the police and the expensive Tory imposed police commissioners should be abolished. The CPS and Director of Public Prosecution's duty to consider public interest in prosecutions should be strengthened. We must see an **end to costly and unnecessary cases** like the Twitter Joke Trial. An action plan should be prepared on how to reduce deaths in custody and through contacts with the police.

✓ Access to Justice

✓ Community Policing

✓ Stop Unfair Extradition

✓ No to Excessive CCTV

✓ No to Commissioners

Unjust extradition arrangements must also be reworked to protect our citizens from disproportionate and inappropriate requests from foreign governments. In particular the current UK-US treaty is weighted against British citizens, and is due for change to protect us all.

✓ No Discrimination

✓ Equal Parental Leave

✓ Equal Marriage

✓ Bridge the Age Divide

Everyone should have the opportunity to be **equally involved in society**. Discrimination on the basis of age, such as the lower minimum wage bracket for 18 to 20 year olds, as well as bias against young people in the welfare system is divisive and unhelpful. There should also be greater and more balanced parental leave to support those in the crucial first stages of starting a family. Helping people so that they can help themselves is the right thing to do, and much more cost effective than leaving them out.

We still face problems in the UK with discrimination on the basis of age, race, gender and sexual orientation either in law or in practice. It is time to change that. **Equality is vital for a healthy society** and given the tax system doesn't discriminate, social policy shouldn't either. Simple but significant changes, like allowing **equal LGBT marriage** are important and achievable.

Instead of writing people off, we need to think creatively and help people to find their own solutions. We should pilot a mentoring programme, matching young people not in education or employment with older people finding the next stage in their career, **bridging the generation gap** for mutual benefit.

Any new legislation or regulation should be for a good reason and **based on sound evidence**. Proposals like alcohol price hikes, which I oppose, don't even have the benefit of having a clear intent, or any evidence to show what they are likely to achieve. Instead they will restrict businesses and our leisure.

"5 out of the 8 wards that make up Manchester Central have 50% child poverty or above."

Source – Loughborough University for End Child Poverty

For Change Vote Loz Kaye

Promoting the right to take part in our shared culture and increasing access to culture is a key Pirate Party aim. **Libraries must be protected** and developed for the 21st century, increasing the role of digital and taking from the best practices of hacker-spaces and start up hubs. Wherever possible library, archive and museum content should be digitised and made widely available. Copyright exceptions should be made so people with visual impairments and print disabilities can access written material equally.

The place of music and the creative arts in education should be preserved and promoted. Culture should be at the heart of regeneration plans, initiatives already underway to bring artists in to empty shop spaces should be supported to **restore life to our high streets**.

My culture policy is about encouraging the research and development in new thinking for our creative lives and the creative economy. Not just box ticking and making the arts part of a narrow national agenda. Artists themselves are too often forgotten in the art funding picture, **culture funding priorities must be to put artists first**, not institutions, buildings or quangos. Let's support art and artists.

✓ Share in Culture

✓ Protect Libraries

✓ "Artists First" Policy

✓ No VAT on eBooks

✓ Arts in Education

Art can be controversial, but it is vital we don't squash freedom of expression. After all, that is what so much of the successful culture of Manchester has been about.

It's time to bring laws about how we consume film, music, TV and books in to the 21st century. Outdated laws against "format shifting", moving material you have bought from one device to another, (for example a CD to an mp3 player) must go. Copyright terms are massively weighted against consumers and must be rebalanced. I want to see a focussing of income on living productive artists and encourage innovation. **Audio books and eBooks should also be zero VAT rated**, to encourage more competitive pricing and the spread of knowledge.

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More About Loz Kaye



✓ Loz Kaye

Loz Kaye joined the Pirate Party as he felt, like many people, let down by mainstream politics and politicians. He took over leadership in 2010 from Andy Robinson. Since then he has become a sought after **expert on civil liberties, open society and the power of technology** to transform people's lives. He has appeared on BBC, CNN, Russia Today and has written for the Guardian. **He speaks regularly on Pirate Party politics** – from the Future Everything Conference in Manchester to events in Brussels and Dublin.

Loz has **worked as a teacher, higher education lecturer and musician**. In education he has worked with a wide variety of students, from GCSE and University, to care homes and learning disabled groups. **He runs his own business** creating and recording music for national and international markets. His music has been performed widely, including at the Manchester Royal Exchange Studio, MMU Capitol Theatre and the (now sadly cut) Green Room.

The Pirate Party UK is a democratic political party built on grassroots support and the work of volunteers. It stands for Digital Rights, Civil Liberties and a politics fit for the 21st Century. The party has no parallel in British politics, wholly transparent to the public, accountable to our members and **not dependent on external groups for our funding or direction**.

If you want to **help Loz in Manchester**, simply get in touch by email (manchester@pirateparty.org.uk) or on the phone (**0161 987 5944**). We need your help to run a successful campaign and to bring our ideas to as many people as possible. You can also help by joining the party or donating.

For more information about the Pirate Party UK please take a look at www.pirateparty.org.uk.

About The Pirate Party



Web: manchester.pirateparty.org.uk

Twitter: @lozkaye

Email: manchester@pirateparty.org.uk

Phone: 0161 987 5944

Vote For Loz Kaye in Manchester

Loz Kaye